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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,188	07/13/2001	Jack Egan	361331-510	3061

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MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY
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BOSTON, MA 02111

EXAMINER

DELACROIX MUIRHEI, CYBILLE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1614

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,188

Applicant(s)

EGAN ET AL.

Examiner

Cybille Delacroix-Muirheid

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

The following is responsive to applicant's amendment and declaration received Oct. 5, 2005.

Claims 1-14 are cancelled. Claims 15-16 are currently pending.

The previous claim rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, set forth in paragraph 1 of the office action mailed Aug. 11, 2005 is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment, declaration and remarks contained therein.

The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed Oct. 5, 2005 is sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 15-16 based upon 35 USC 112, paragraph 1 (new matter).

However, new prior art was discovered during an update search of the patent and non-patent literature. A new ground(s) of rejection follows.

New Ground(s) of Rejection

Claim Rejection(s)—35 USC 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

1. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cerami et al., 5,853,703 (already of record) in view of Reeves et al., 2002/0004500 (102(e)=April 3, 2000).

Cerami et al. disclose a method of inhibiting and reversing protein aging by administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a thiazolium compound represented by Formula (1). Specifically, Cerami et al. teach that the method has therapeutic applications and that the thiazolium compound can be used in a method for treating hypertension. A preferred compound used in the therapeutic method is 3-(2- phenyl-2-oxoethyl)-4,5-dimethyl-thiazolium bromide. Finally, Cerami et al. teach that pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds may also be used in the disclosed method. Please see the abstract; col. 2, line 47 to col. 3, line 29; col. 7, lines 12-18 and 25-35.

Cerami et al. do not disclose combining the preferred compound with hydrochlorothiazide. Yet, the examiner refers to Reeves et al., which teach that hydrochlorothiazide is one of several suitable agents that can be used to treat isolated systolic hypertension. Please see [0015].

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cerami et al. by combining the thiazolium compound with hydrochlorothiazide because one of ordinary skill in the art would reasonably expect the additive effect of the two compounds to be effective in treating hypertension, especially isolated systolic hypertension.

Additionally, Cerami et al. do not specifically disclose administering the claimed compound 3-(2- phenyl-2-oxoethyl)-4,5-dimethyl-thiazolium chloride; however, the Examiner refers to col. 7, lines 10-11, where Cerami et al. teach that the halo atom used in the thiazolium compounds may also be chloride. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to administer 3-(2- phenyl-2-oxoethyl)-4,5-dimethyl-thiazolium chloride because, in view of Cerami et al.'s teaching, one of ordinary skill in the art would reasonably expect the chloride compound to be effective in treating hypertension. Such a modification would have been motivated by the reasonable expectation that the chloride compound would have similar properties, and thus the same use as the bromide compound.

Conclusion

Claims 15-16 are rejected.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Cybill Delacroix-Muirheid** whose telephone number is **571-272-0572**. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs. from 8:30 to 6:00 as well as every other Friday from 9:30-6:00.

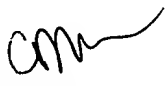

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher Low**, can be reached on **571-272-0951**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CDM 
Jan. 9, 2006